

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

080915Z Jun 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00
	COME-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/010W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9055
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001836

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS
NAIROBI FOR TERRY PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/08/11
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [EAID](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: MORE ON ZIMBABWE COMMERCIAL FARMERS' PROPOSAL
TO RESOLVE LAND DISPUTE

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REF: A) HARARE 1749, B) HARARE 1276, C) HARARE 1102

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) MALCOLM VOWLES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION (CFU), ELABORATED TO POLOFF ON JUNE 6 ON THE CFU'S NEW PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ) TO RESOLVE THEIR LONG-SIMMERING IMPASSE ON LAND REFORM (SEE REF A FOR DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL). VOWLES STATED THAT BOTH THE CFU AND GOZ ARE INCREASINGLY WEARY OF THE LAND IMPASSE, AND BOTH ARE FEELING OUT A MODERATE APPROACH TO RESOLVE TENSIONS. THE CFU'S SPECIAL CONGRESS IN MARCH (REF C) MANDATED THAT A SOLUTION BE FOUND, AND THIS LATEST PROPOSAL IS THE BEST ATTEMPT SO FAR. THE OFFER AIMS TO MAKE THE GOZ'S "FAST-TRACK" EXERCISE A SUCCESS BY PROVIDING SOFT LOANS (FUNDED BY DONORS) AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (PROVIDED BY THE COMMERCIAL FARMING COMMUNITY) TO RESETTLED FAMILIES IN EXCHANGE FOR AN END TO THE HARASSMENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMERS AND THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF THEIR FARMS, VOWLES CONTINUED. HE SAID THAT THE GOZ HAD THIS WEEK ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE CFU'S PROPOSAL, AND THAT IT HAD BEEN SENT TO A "COMPETENT," INTER-MINISTERIAL TECHNICAL TEAM FOR REVIEW. THE TEAM'S FINDINGS ARE DUE TO BE SENT TO THE CABINET THE WEEK OF JUNE 11, THE CFU OFFICIAL REPORTED.

12. (C) AT A LARGE SOCIAL EVENT HELD JUNE 7 AND ATTENDED BY OVER 200 COMMERCIAL FARMERS, ECONOFF WAS TOLD BY THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN MOVING THE PROPOSAL FORWARD
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THAT THE TWO PARTIES HAD GONE BEYOND THE POSING STAGE, AND THAT SOME SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOW UNDER WAY. INFORMED SOURCES TOLD THE USAID DIRECTOR THAT VICE-PRESIDENT MSIKA, AMONG OTHER CABINET MEMBERS, RECENTLY UPBRAIDED LANDS, AGRICULTURE AND RESETTLEMENT MINISTER JOSEPH MADE FOR MAKING STATEMENTS CONTRARY TO HIS OWN ON THE FARMERS' PROPOSAL. THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER PUBLICLY REJECTED THE OFFER OUT OF HAND WHILE THE VICE-PRESIDENT HAD ANNOUNCED WITH CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STUDYING IT.

13. (C) COMMENT: THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS' READOUT IS ONE WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE, BUT EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF MOVEMENT IS BETTER THAN THE CURRENT IMPASSE. EVEN IF THE GOZ TECHNICAL TEAM SMILES ON THE CFU'S PROPOSAL, THE FARMERS ARE PROBABLY OVEROPTIMISTIC ON ITS CHANCES IN THE GOZ CABINET. VOWLES' COMMENTS LIKELY REFLECT HOPEFUL THINKING AMONG THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS THAT THE GOZ TRULY WANTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE LAND REFORM

IMPASSE. END COMMENT.

IRVING

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